

State of Alaska FY2010 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety Village Public Safety Officer Program Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary

Village Public Safety Officer Program Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

Preserve public peace and protect life and property in rural villages.

Core Services

- Contract with non-profit organizations to provide Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) services throughout rural Alaska.

Major Activities to Advance Strategies

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VPSO training academy. • VPSO regional update training. • Driving Under the Influence (DUI) patrols. • Domestic violence and DUI training. • Report writing and investigation in-service. • Coordination with outside domestic violence-related agencies and support groups. • Domestic violence supervisory case review with district attorney coordination. • Provide search and rescue management training. • Water safety education. • Increased inspections. • Crime Stoppers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (ABC) training. • Coordination of ABC investigations. • Provide boater safety public education. • Provide boater safety training to VPSOs and AST. • D.A.R.E. programs. • Alcohol Rewards Program. • Patrol high crime areas. • Investigator training. • Enhanced communications between jurisdictions. • Community Oriented Policing (COP) training. • Participation in village council meetings. |
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FY2010 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2010 Results Delivery Unit Budget: \$7,100,700

Personnel:

Full time	2
Part time	0
Total	2

Key RDU Challenges

VPSO are the first responders to incidents, and/or the only individuals immediately available to provide a broad range of public safety services in their village. These functions range from basic law enforcement, to probationer and parolee supervision, to provision of first aid to the injured, to assisting with search and rescue missions, to fire prevention activities.

VPSO retention continues to be a challenge. Many factors are responsible for high VPSO turnover. In fact, many of the same factors that affect Alaska State Trooper recruitment also influence VPSO recruitment, including the public's general lack of interest in law enforcement jobs. For VPSOs, one unique factor has been a historically low rate of pay. Funding in the form of supervision of parolees and probationers has continued to account for a considerable portion of the monthly VPSO salary. Furthermore, toward this end, an Alaska State Senate VPSO Task Force solicited input by holding a number of public meetings throughout the state in early 2008 and, in part, determined that additional funding was necessary for the program. As a result, effective July 1, 2008, the base rate of pay for VPSOs increased from \$17.00 to \$21.00 per hour.

The VPSO program has suffered from high turnover since inception. The expectations of a VPSO have changed over time and become more demanding. Consequently, fewer village residents are willing to serve as a VPSO, which then requires hiring entities to seek applicants from elsewhere. It has proven difficult at best to recruit qualified applicants from urban areas to serve in villages.

Grant management and oversight responsibility are requiring significant and increasing staff time. Upper level AST managers further are expending an increased amount of diplomatic effort in order to ensure that the program remains successful.

With the increase in pay, AST anticipates more successful recruitment, which is beginning to bear fruit. There will be a strong presence of Village Public Safety Officers at DPS recruitment booths during both the Alaska State Fair in Palmer and the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) conference held in Anchorage. The VPSO website continues to be regularly updated with information regarding VPSO employment opportunities and qualifications so that interested individuals may have easy access in applying for the VPSO program.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2010

The legislature appropriated \$1,529,900 for the VPSO program to improve both the recruitment and retention of VPSOs in FY2009. \$929,900 was designated as partial funding for fifteen new VPSO positions and \$600,000 was designated for pay raises. Increasing the number of VPSOs will provide improved levels of service and a greater degree of assurance that Alaska's Native population is being served adequately and on par with all other citizens.

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2008

VPSO probation and parole services continue throughout the VPSO communities. Probation and parole training is being provided to new VPSOs attending the ten week session of basic VPSO training at the DPS Academy in Sitka. VPSOs are developing and maintaining good working relationships with probation and parole oversights, as well as continuing to monitor offenders within their communities on a regular basis.

DPS sponsored 970 hours training per available VPSO in FY2008. This training included Basic Village Police Officer Academy #16 and #17, VPSO Academy #34, regional training for all participating Native non-profit organizations, Street Survival, Reid Interview and Interrogation, and Learn to Return.

All participating Native non-profit organizations coordinated construction and / or renovation of public safety projects within their respective regions.

- AST conducted 2,340 VPSO village visits
- Troopers conducted 5,578 oversight hours
- Ten new VPSOs attended VPSO academy #34 in Sitka
- VPSOs investigated 3,607 cases, to include 57 driving under the influence (DUI), 95 assaults, and 143 domestic violence assaults. Total cases represent a 47.7 percent increase over FY2007, DUI represents a 63 percent increase over FY2007, assault represents a 50.5 percent increase over FY2007, and domestic violence assault represents a 51.7 percent increase over FY2007.

Contact Information

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**Village Public Safety Officer Program
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2008 Actuals				FY2009 Management Plan				FY2010 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
Formula Expenditures None.												
Non-Formula Expenditures												
VPSO	5,082.7	0.0	0.0	5,082.7	6,666.3	0.0	0.0	6,666.3	6,666.3	0.0	0.0	6,666.3
Contracts												
Support	246.5	0.0	106.1	352.6	267.2	0.0	162.2	429.4	269.1	0.0	165.3	434.4
Totals	5,329.2	0.0	106.1	5,435.3	6,933.5	0.0	162.2	7,095.7	6,935.4	0.0	165.3	7,100.7

**Village Public Safety Officer Program
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2009 Management Plan to FY2010 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2009 Management Plan	6,933.5	0.0	162.2	7,095.7
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Support	1.9	0.0	3.1	5.0
FY2010 Governor	6,935.4	0.0	165.3	7,100.7